

Case Co. to Build Road Machinery

T.H. Trib. 3/28/66

By GARY MINICH
Tribune Staff Writer

It's official.

That rumor wafting around town for months, blowing warmer with the approach of spring and turning hot this past fortnight, was confirmed today at 1:30 p.m. when Mayor Ralph Tucker announced the acquisition of Allis-Chalmers' former N. 13th St. industrial complex, by J. I. Case and Co. of Racine, Wisconsin.

The 600,000 square foot heavy industry facility will be used to manufacture road construction equipment components as the eighth plant in Case's chain of U. S. facilities, and the 12th Case plant world-wide.

500 Employees to Start

Production will begin in early 1967 with 500 people hired initially. Company sources indicated employment might increase to 900 within the first year of operation.

Mayor Tucker termed the announcement "the reward . . . of many months of effort by the administration, the Chamber of Commerce, leaders of industrial expansion committees and other civic-minded groups" to reactivate the Allis-Chalmers facility.

"This is the reward . . . after many years of heartaches in the sale of Allis-Chalmers," the Mayor said, "and fits into the pattern of explosive, economic growth in our community."

Extension of 1965

Tucker called the acquisition an extension of 1965's record year of new construction. He hinted that other announcements may be expected in the near future.

"In fact," the Mayor noted, "new announcements may be expected almost daily . . . Terre Haute is on the go."

The press conference was attended by Merritt Hill, chairman of the board; Frank J. Palermo, vice president in charge of manufacturing, and D. E. Fricker, director of public relations, from Case's Racine offices.

T. H. Industries -

J. I. Case & Co.

3-28-66 to 7-1-69

Arrived at 11:30 A.M.

Each made a statement following Mayor Tucker's announcement. The trio arrived at Hulman Field at 11:30 a.m. and went directly to the Terre Haute House where press representatives from every corner of the Wabash Valley had been invited to meet at 1:30.

The Wisconsin farm machinery and construction equipment firm was established in 1842. Presently it employs 13,000 in seven U. S. plants and four overseas subsidiaries. According to Fortune magazine, Case is the 278th largest manufacturer in America and in 1965 recorded net sales of \$273,580,869 with net earnings of \$10,741,440.

Overseas plants are located in England, France, Australia and Brazil and sales outlets are maintained in 100 Free World nations.

Climax for Newsmen

Monday's press conference climaxed a tense two weeks for Terre Haute newsmen.

The rumors started last fall when the breeze linked Ford with the vacant Allis-Chalmers facility. Calls fired from THE TRIBUNE to Dearborn and Milwaukee turned up blank.

"Could be," admitted one of Ford's public relationsists, "This department would be the last to know about it."

The breeze died down. Weeks of calm passed before the leaves of hope again were ruffled. Ford may yet be coming, the gentle wind whispered . . . If not Ford, Bendix Aviation.

Then a hot blast as March 21

passed and spring arrived . . .

From every direction newsmen heard, "It's Case Tractor."

We perspired in the onslaught, without relief of official word.

Secret Talks

Mayor Tucker confirmed the secret that something was coming, but told us last week that he had been "authorized to say nothing."

He recalled negotiations with the firm earlier, in which Case representatives identified themselves to Tucker and other civic leaders as "Mr. X," and "Mr. M."

Actually, the announcement climaxed years of search on behalf of civic leaders to reactivate the 220-acre plant abandoned by Allis-Chalmers.

The plant was designed for heavy industry, limiting the number of companies which might be interested. First, A-C built it to manufacture jet engine parts, but after cancellation of government contracts, switched to aviation electronics parts. Another cancellation and another retooling. After approximately a decade in Terre Haute, the plant was closed, permanently.

Allis-Chalmers began production here in 1951 in a temporary location until the plant could be completed. Operations were moved to the site, now acquired by Case, in 1953 and closed down nine years later in 1962.

INDIANA ROOM

Wigo County Public Library

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CASE ANNOUNCES LOCAL MANAGERS — Richard L. Hayes, second from left, was named general manager of the new J. I. Case plant and Warren H. LaMond, second from right, was named manufacturing manager at a Monday press conference. The pair are shown talking with Forrest Sherer, left, president of the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce, after the conference. Also present were Mayor Ralph Tucker, center, and Donald Fricker, right, Case director of public relations. (Photo by Kadel)

Case Names Managerial Team for Local Plant

T. H. Industry
T. H. Starr 4/5/66

By FRED NATION

Richard L. Hayes, a native of Brazil, Ind., was named general manager Monday of the new J. I. Case Company plant north of Terre Haute. The announcement was made by Case Company officials at an afternoon press conference.

Also announced was the appointment of Warren H. LaMond as manufacturing manager. Both men were introduced by Donald Fricker, director of public relations for the firm. Also participating in the announcement were Forrest Sherer, president of the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce, and Mayor Ralph Tucker.

Hayes, who will assume his duties immediately, said one of the first tasks of the firm would be to open an employment office locally to recruit workers.

He said an industrial relations manager would be appointed at the end of this week and a local employment office may be in operation within two weeks.

Mayor Tucker noted an employment office already is "open": "I have six letters on my desk from persons inquiring about employment. Most of these are from persons who used to work at Tumpene or Allis-Chalmers and want to come back to Terre Haute and live."

Joe Petty, manager of the Indiana State Employment Service, said his office also has received several inquiries about employment opportunities.

Hayes said he had seen the plant and was "thrilled" about his new position. He said it was well-adapted to Case's type of operation and the prime need is persons to staff it. "Since I'm from around here, I know we have a fine type of worker in the area."

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LaMond noted the warm reception Case has received in

Terre Haute and said he had "never seen anything quite like it before."

About the new plant, LaMond commented that he feels "we have the most modern facility in the Case family and we hope to make it a showcase of the company operation."

Hayes comes to the local plant from Bettendorf, Iowa where he was manufacturing manager of a Case plant. He was born and attended school and Brazil High School. After he was graduated from Brazil in 1940, Hayes entered Purdue University, served with the Army Corps of Engineers, then was graduated from Purdue in 1947.

The new manager has several relatives living in Brazil including his widowed mother, Mrs. Mary Hayes, 74, who lives on a rural route northwest of Brazil.

Two brothers, Claude and Arthur Hayes, operate a grocery store on West National Avenue, where they have been in business since 1938. Miss Margaret Hayes, a sister, also lives in the community.

Before joining Case in January, 1965, Hayes served in various capacities with several other companies, including the Rockwell Manufacturing Co., Princeton Co. division, Drinnel Corp., and the Aetna Standard Division, Blaw-Knox Co.

The new plant manager and his wife, Beth, will relocate their family in the Terre Haute area in June, after the end of the current school year. Their daughter, Debra, 12, is in the sixth grade and a son, Richard Jr., 15, is a high school fresh-

man. Another daughter, Jeanne, 19, is a freshman at the University of Iowa, majoring in liberal arts.

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LaMond, the manufacturing manager, was formerly general manager of Case's United Kingdom operations. Before joining Case in July, 1962, LaMond held management positions at Ford Motor Co., Utility Appliance Co., Budd Manufacturing Co., and Guerdon Industries.

LaMond and his wife have three children and will move to Terre Haute in July. Mrs. LaMond and the children are presently in England.

Hayes and LaMond will be in charge of selecting and training a management staff and production and maintenance employees. Office equipment, machine tools must be purchased before the plant is put into production. In addition, considerable work must be done on systems and processing of production parts and new equipment to be manufactured in the plant.

The local plant will produce component parts for the Case model 530 Construction King combination loader-backhoe. A definite date for the start of production has not been set, but Case Company does expect to be in operation in early 1967.

Announcement of the purchase of the former Allis-Chalmers facility was made last week when Merritt Hill, chairman of the board and Frank Palermo, vice president in charge of the manufacturing, visited the city. The 600,000 square foot structure is located on North Thirteenth Street Road.

Case Firm Will Open Office Here For Employment

J. I. Case Company, recent purchasers of the former Allis-Chalmers plant on North Thirteenth Street Road, will open an employment office April 20, in downtown Terre Haute, according to an announcement Sunday.

Case also named Leo J. Chapman Jr. as the industrial relations manager for the new facility.

The office will be located in Room 214 of the Merchant's National Bank Building, 701 Wabash Ave. Office hours and phone number will be announced later.

As announced earlier by Case, electricians, millwrights, steam fitters and maintenance men will be needed initially to put the plant into shape. When the plant is in operation, draftsmen, tool and process engineers, tool and die makers, machine operators, welders and supervisors will be among the skilled workers hired. Applications for all positions will be accepted starting April 20.

Chapman, 36, joined the Case Company in 1957 as employment supervisor at the Rockford, Ill., plant. He became director of labor relations at Lawrence Brothers Hardware Company, Sterling, Ill., in 1962. He rejoined Case at its Rockford plant in 1963 as supervisor of employment and safety and had served at Case's Rock Island, Ill., facility since June, 1965.

More Case Co. Executives



DON E. GASH

Three key posts have been filled by J. I. Case Company for the 600,000 sq. ft. manufacturing plant it is acquiring in Terre Haute at the former Allis-Chalmers plant.

Don E. Gash has been named fabrication superintendent; John R. Loizzo is the new assembly superintendent, and Ralph J. Dodds becomes plant engineer. All three men will report directly to Manufacturing Manager Warren H. LaMond.

Gash, 35, is a 1952 graduate of the University of Wisconsin with a BS degree in agricultural engineering. He has been with Case since 1955 and has had assignments with Case at its Aniston, Ala.; Rockford, Ill., and Stockton, Calif., plants. His



JOHN R. LOIZZO

most recent assignment was as manufacturing manager at Stockton.

John R. Loizzo, 47, has been with Case Company for 24 years in various capacities from tool and equipment designer through various levels of manufacturing management. He attended the University of Wisconsin where he studied mechanical engineering. Prior to accepting his new post, he was superintendent of the Forge Shop and Loader division of the Clausen Plant in Racine, Wis.

Ralph J. Dodds, 58, obtained a mechanical engineering degree at the former Armour Institute in Chicago. He formerly had been with Case as a plant engineer from 1958 to 1965 at



RALPH J. DODDS

its Bettendorf Plant. He has had plant engineering and maintenance responsibilities at Firestone Tire & Rubber Co., Akron, Ohio; French & Hecht Division, Kelsey - Hayes Co., Davenport, Iowa, and Gunito Foundries Division, Kelsey - Hayes Co., Rockford, Ill.

Two Named Case Managers

J. I. Case Company officials announced two new managers had recently been appointed to positions in the new Terre Haute plant.

A Case employe from Burlington, Ia., plant, David W. Dandro, was named manager of quality control and James G. Worthington, who worked in the LeTourneau-Westinghouse plant in Indianapolis, will be the new purchasing manager.

Dandro has been with Case since 1964. He was supervisor of quality control engineering at Burlington. He has served in

various positions as supervisor and engineer in the reliability and quality control department at the Allis-Chalmers Harvey, Ill., plant.

He is a graduate of Montana State College and earned his master of Business Administration from the University of Chicago.

Worthington is a mechanical engineering graduate of Purdue. He has held positions of test engineer, chief metallurgist, assistant factory superintendent, manager of purchasing and manager of materials.

Press Previews New Case Line

BY SARAH E. BENCE
Star Staff Writer

New construction equipment products of the J. I. Case Company for introduction to dealers and the trade in November was previewed at the local plant Thursday by representatives of news media, particularly members of the Associated Construction Publications.

Most of the new equipment viewed will be produced in Terre Haute and includes the largest piece of such machinery manufactured by Case and a new "concrete placer" only recently introduced by Case, both manufactured here.

The steady growth of the local plant since Case located here about 15 months ago was pointed out at the conference. When the plant was opened, it was predicted the employment by the end of 1967 would be 500 and it now is 460. It looks as if it may be more than 500 at the end of the year as new persons are being hired each week. Ultimate employment is expected at more than 1,000.

The capability, loyalty and interest of the Terre Haute labor force was one of the prime subjects discussed in individual interviews with company officials. All were enthusiastic about the workers.

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During the press conference at the local plant, the visitors heard officials of the company point out that Case views its construction equipment division as the coming production of the company due to the building of a greater America.

About 40 editors from national and regional construction publications circulated throughout the United States and located from the East Coast to Denver attended the meeting. Also present were representatives of local news media and officials of Case from Racine, Wis., company headquarters; Glenn Ellyn, Ill., Denver, Colo., and the Terre Haute plant.



PLAN CASE TERRE HAUTE PRODUCTS—Officials of J. I. Case Company here from Racine, Wis., company headquarters, for a preview of new equipment produced locally to be introduced to the market in November talks over future of Terre Haute plant with its general manager, Richard L. Hayes, left. With him are, O. Verl Strom, director, central staff, marketing and international, center, and Lyle R. Kanetzke, general manager-marketing, construction equipment, right. (Photo by Kadel)

The program Thursday included a two-hour news conference and viewing of the new equipment working behind the plant, a luncheon, a tour of the plant, an opportunity to operate the equipment, a short news conference and then the group members were on their

way to transportation back to their various locations.

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Richard L. Hayes, general plant manager, was host for the meeting at which D. E. Fricker, Racine, director of public relations, was master of ceremonies.

A discussion of the machinery and equipment shown was given by Lyle R. Kanetzke, Racine, general manager — Marketing, construction equipment.

He noted that the agricultural equipment and construction equipment divisions of the company were established after years of careful study and considerable evaluation by independent leading management counsel. The two he added, are like two totally different companies. All this has been done to assure the proper concentration of effort into the construction equipment market area.

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It is this area, he emphasized, where the company sees the greatest growth potential with the country predicted to be rebuilt by the year 2,000. By that time, he noted, every city will have to double its facilities to answer the needs to house, supply,

educate, feed, service, entertain the bulk of a 300 million population. Road building programs will make the 41,000 miles of super highway program now look like a country lane, he said.

By 1970 — just 1,000 days away, the population is seen to be increasing to 206 million. Construction activity will be up 12 per cent and new construction activity will be up 20 per cent over today — to \$92 billion.

With the greatest gains seen in the building field, Case equipment is targeted to be right in the midst of this building market.

J. I. Case



ROBERT CRAMER
"I'm just going to farm"



BILL JONES
"We were optimistic"

Business+Industry (WU) - J. I. Case

Worst fears confirmed with Thursday statement

Is MAY 9 1986

By Sue Loughlin
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Employees had heard rumors for months that three Case plants would be closing, but many chose not to believe it would happen in Terre Haute.

On Thursday, their worst fears were confirmed. Case IH officials announced tentative plans the Terre Haute plant would be closed in late 1987.

"We were optimistic it wouldn't be this one here," said Bill Jones, vice president of United Auto Workers Local 689 and a Case employee for 19 years.

Jones, a repairman at Case, said he "doesn't have any idea" what he'll do once Case closes. "I'll just be looking for another job in less than a year, probably."

"It's a bad situation," said Gerald Hardesty, 51, of Lewis. He's been employed with Case for 19½ years and is close to retirement. "It will take a lot of jobs out of the area."

His wife, Martha, waited in a car to pick him up. Unaware of the announced closing, she expressed shock.

"So many rumors were going around," she said. "A lot of guys thought it [local plant] was too big" to close.

"Everybody's pretty upset," said one union official who asked to remain unnamed. "You don't lose a

job after 18 or 19 years and not get upset."

He said a meeting was called at 1:30 p.m. Thursday and the closing was announced on the public-address system. "They blamed it all on economics," he said.

"I think it's kind of a rotten deal," said Robert Cramer, 45, of Route 13, Brazil. "I'm just going to farm." He said some employees hoped to be moved to other plants, though others said the chances were remote.

Don Cox of Route 53 has been a Case employee for 19 years. "It's a sad thing for everyone who worked here," he said. "I don't know what people will do in Terre Haute unless things pick up. I'll make it someday or another."

His wife, Mary, termed it "a great loss. You always think somewhere else will get it, and not your own."

Jones attributed the closing to several factors including foreign competition, the economy and low demand for construction equipment.

At Spelerville Inn, a few Case employees were found mulling over the bad news.

"It's a sad thing," said Charles Eveland, 58, of Paris, Ill.

He said many of those employed at the plant are middle-aged or older. "You get 40 years or older and no one wants to hire you," he said. "You get out on the streets

and there are no jobs to be found."

August will mark his 17th anniversary at Case.

Tom Kelley, owner of Spelerville Inn, said his business will definitely be affected.

"It'll take a big chunk out of it financially," he said. Three shifts of Case employees come to eat, drink or order carry outs. "It's always a shock to lose a big industry," he said.

He expected his business will expand to do banquets once Case finally closes.

Philip Trotzke, 47, of 214 S. 22nd St. has been employed at Case for nearly 16 years. He recently bought a new house on South 20th Street.

He said the announced closing won't affect his family's moving plans, though it might have if he had known in advance.

"There had been rumors. They told us the rumors were not true, and that a decision had not been made to close the plant," he said. "We were at ease about it until today."

Trotzke said he is upset, but believes he has enough skills and experience in other fields to find other work. He also plans to stay in Terre Haute.

His wife, Marlene, found out through her sister. "I was very upset," she said. The couple has two children, Michael, 9 and Julie, 3.

Community Affairs File

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J. I. Case

Case's history stretches 20 years to purchase of Allis-Chalmers site

Ts MAY 9 1986

Yellowed newspaper clippings chronicle the ups and downs for Case IH, one of Terre Haute's major employers.

• On March 28, 1966, word hit the newsstands that "the rumor wafting around town for months" was true: J.I. Case had acquired Allis-Chalmers's former North 13th Street complex, closed in 1962. Mayor Ralph Tucker said the acquisition "fits into the pattern of explosive, economic growth in our community." Production was to begin in early 1967, with 500 people hired initially.

• Rep. John T. Myers, R-Ind., announced July 1, 1969, that the local plant would get 70 percent of a \$3.15 million Army contract for scoop loaders, "which will mean more than normal production for the local plant."

• In June 1970, word came that Case would move the manufacture of four-wheel-drive loaders to the Terre Haute plant from Rockford, Ill.

• Case sales of construction equipment were projected at \$380 million in 1972, making Case the third-largest manufacturer of construction equipment in the United States. Thomas J. Guendel of Case

said.

• "MULTI-MILLION EXPANSION" was the headline in inch-high letters in May 1974, when plans for an additional 70,000 square feet of production space were announced. Local Case employment was then put at 800, with possibly another 100 workers needed later. Total Case sales in 1973 were reported as \$919 million (up 50 percent from the year before), and sales in 1974 were anticipated to top \$1 billion.

• In 1975, Case was awarded a \$12.4 million contract from Algeria, and the local plant would help fill that order for construction equipment.

• Strikes hit the Case plant here a number of times — including 1971, 1974, and 1977.

• Things started to go sour in the 1980s. In early 1982, the local company shut down for a month. A temporary halt during April involved some 560 Case. "With the depressed state of construction and agricultural equipment markets and the continuing increases in short term interest rates, it is likely that additional production cutbacks will be necessary in the future," Case officials said.

Another shutdown came in June 1982.

• Base salaries were frozen, effective Sept. 1, 1982, and reductions in vacation and paid absence allowance days became effective Jan. 1, 1983. Case called those actions "a necessary part of our plan to keep our company sound." Case construction sales were off 20 percent from 1980 and farm machinery sales were down 12 percent from the previous year.

• Production at all Case plants was halted temporarily during part of December 1982, January 1983 and part of February 1983, throwing nearly 500 local employees out of work. Case officials attributed the shutdown to lingering effects of high interest rates, low farm commodity prices and housing starts and a continuing construction industry slump.

• In January of this year, Lester Hauger, president of United Auto Workers Local 689, said the layoff figure likely would top 100, and "Right now, it doesn't look very good." That news came at the same time controversy began over the loss of defense contracts by Case to Fiat-Allis, partly owned by Libya.

Case closing ripples throughout economy

The closing of Case IH in Terre Haute is likely to have a rippling effect throughout the local economy, and one of the organizations that will feel an impact is United Way of the Wabash Valley.

Greg Milliken, executive director, said Case pledged \$25,000 in

corporate and employee donations in last fall's campaign for 1986.

Milliken was unsure what the immediate implications might be, but once the company closes, "it will affect our campaign — there's no question."

The services of United Way agencies will probably be needed to assist those facing future unemployment, he said.

United Way would plan a response to try and help Case workers, he said.

Ts MAY 9 1986

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Business and Industry (WI) - JI, Case

Countdown under way for Case IH workers

Is FEB 22 1987

Case IH employees are concerned about the imminent plant closing, but many have the positive attitude that they will adjust and overcome the hurdle of unemployment.

Some accept the fact that they may have to take lower-paying jobs, at least temporarily. They say they've had it good for many years.

Others are planning for the future and looking into starting their own small businesses.

For a few, particularly those over age 50 who were laid off last spring, the going has been rough.

More than 200 employees are scheduled to be laid off by the end of this month. After that, smaller layoffs will be phased in until the plant closes.

Production work has halted and workers left are packing up what's there.

In December, the Western Indiana Private Industry Council set up a special dislocated workers program in the United Auto Workers local 689 office.

WIPIC representatives Jim Wright and Gary Anderson are working with employees in many ways, helping them learn how to write resumes and interview for a job. Some employees are working on taking a high school equivalency tests. Some short-term training programs are being developed.

WIPIC has conducted financial, stress and small business seminars. The real work will begin this month as the first major layoff occurs.

"There's not a whole lot of employment in this area," said Lester Hauger, president of UAW local 689.

Steve Sutliff, chief of the bargaining committee, estimated that only about half of the nearly 160 workers laid off early last year have found jobs. Some did seasonal work, but were laid off again.

Worker spirit still seems to be high, Hauger said, but reality is beginning to take hold.

"It's hard to realize when you're still working 40 hours per week that you aren't going to be," Hauger said.

WIPIC will probably be based at the union hall until fall and union officials said the UAW will probably kick in some money for a job-placement program.

Inevitable looms for Trotzke family

Phil Trotzke, 47, a Case

employee for 16½ years, is one of those who must soon face the inevitable.

"If I'm going to look for work, there's no sense until I'm really out of a job," he said. He'll really be out of a job Friday.

Because he has musical, carpentry and other skills to fall back on, Trotzke believes he may be better off than some workers. Also, his parents own Trotzke's Market at 333 Walnut St., and he's debating whether or not to take over operating the store.

Now an assembler, Trotzke has worked several jobs at Case.

"I really wanted to continue working there," he said recently. "I wasn't ready [for the plant to close], financially or otherwise."

He made \$37,000 last year, and had 3½ weeks vacation, as well as five casual days and other bonus days.

Trotzke says he's not really worried about the future. "It isn't what I want," he said, but he knows it's what he's going to have to live with.

He initially plans to take some time and look around to see what's available. He has gone to some of the Private Industry Council

seminars.

Marlene, his wife of nearly 28 years, does not work outside the home. The couple has two children, Michael, 10, and Julie, 4.

"It has been a very secure thing," Trotzke said of the Case job. Before the company announced last May it would close the Terre Haute plant, he didn't think there was much of a chance of being laid off. Benefits were "fantastic," and he also liked all the time off.

"Case has been one of the better paying plants in Terre Haute," he said.

New work found, but belt tightened

Stephen Torpy didn't waste time looking for work after he was laid off one year ago this Saturday. He drew unemployment for about six weeks, but looked for a job during that time. He didn't want to wait until all his benefits ran out. Instead, he decided to save some of his unemployment for the winter months.

On April 21, he went to work for W.C. Hargis and Son Inc.

Community Affairs

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The work is seasonal. He worked until Christmas, and expects to go back the last of March or April 1.

He has done well, and believes he made as much last year as he did his last year at Case.

"You have to tighten the belt a little," he said. "There aren't too many places around here that have the good paying jobs that Case provided. There are probably only a handful."

He worked at Case beginning in 1973 for two years, was laid off for 2½ years, and had to rehire because he lost seniority. The second time around, Torpy worked at Case from 1977 until Feb. 28, 1986.

His wife, Lindsay, is 38. "Steve and I have always budgeted our money," she said. She and her husband don't drink, smoke or waste money. Lindsay does not work outside the home.

In a depressed area such as Terre Haute, it will be hard for some to find jobs, she said, adding, "Terre Haute will miss the Case company."

Unless another company of similar magnitude locates here, she believes some may have to

move.

"I don't think reality has hit them yet," she said of those still working.

She said her husband is more fortunate than some because he does have a good job.

They believe those with children could suffer most.

"It will be a different life for people," Torpy said. "They will have to be accustomed to do things differently."

For older worker 'it has been hell'

Don Perkins, 53, of 2354 N. Hendricks has a different story. "It's been hell," he said.

Since his lay-off on Feb. 14, 1986, he's filled out 63 job applications. On six occasions, he said, he was told he wouldn't be hired because of his age.

But, he said, he doesn't really want to work at a place where he isn't wanted.

His wife, Karen, 44, works at a medical lab. Her income has to provide for their house payment, food, utility bills and his truck

payments.

If house or car insurance comes up, Perkins said, "I have to figure out how to pay for it. All her money is already spent."

Perkins worked at Case nine years and four months. He got unemployment and supplemental unemployment benefits, but has pounded the pavement looking for any kind of job ranging from trash-hauling to driving a van for senior citizens.

He has gotten a few jobs hauling trash to the county dump and worked a few days for minimum wage at one local business before being laid off from there.

To cope with financial difficulties, Perkins has had to part with some of his favorite "toys," including his motorcycle, jeep and satellite dish.

Born and raised in Terre Haute, he later moved to Houston, Texas, where he had his own machine shop for about 10 years before selling it and moving back to Terre Haute.

He'd like to get back into machine shop-type work.

"I was really bitter," he said. "I'm learning now."

A brother who lives in Texas has offered to lend him the money for a down payment if he can find a business he'd like to buy.

"I'm getting used to living on nothing," Perkins said. He said he has too much pride to get food stamps, or to stand in line for government butter or cheese.

"We don't do a lot of things like we used to," Karen Perkins said. "We don't go out and eat as much as we used to. Christmas was very slim."

They don't buy items unless they really need them, she said.

"We haven't done bad," he said.

Now he feels like a thousand others unemployed and says there is "no use pounding the streets" when he knows he won't get hired.

He made about \$21,000 his last year at Case.

Finding new job 'almost impossible'

"It's almost impossible to find a job," said Robert Vlahos of Paris, who was 56 when he was laid off last February. Employers don't say anything outright, but they usually want younger workers.

He said he probably applied at 50 to 60 places, including Evansville, St. Louis, Kansas City, Mo., and Wichita, Kan. Just before Christmas, he finally found a job in Paris as a drill operator.

Although he said the pay doesn't

compare to what he made at Case IH, "it's a job. It keeps us eating."

It's especially difficult to find a job when unemployment is high, he said, adding, "I don't see any end to it in the near future."

Neither he nor his wife wanted to leave the area, but they would have been prepared to.

His wife also works part-time at a hospital. She didn't when he worked at Case.

Good-money jobs are hard to find

Robert Keown, 46, of Clinton has worked at Case since 1967. He recently enrolled in the PIC program to help him find a new job.

"Most people I talk to say the jobs are not there to make the kind of money I make now," he said.

Both he and his wife work, and last year probably made \$41,000 together.

He wants to find some type of job "to keep things going" until something better comes along. His two children are married.

Just a year ago, Keown was under the impression that everything was fine. He bought a new car — then, boom, three months later, he learned Case would close.

'Not ticked off' about Case leaving

"I've had a good job for 17 years," said 34-year-old Ronald Swickard of Terre Haute. He's worked at Case since he was 18.

His concern is that the plant closing will take a big chunk out of his retirement and hopes for some good benefits when the plant closes.

"I'm not ticked off at the company," he said. "They've got to do what they've got to do."

He said he's not real concerned about the plant closing. "I have the outlook that I'll find a decent job, if I have to move," he said. He realizes he may not find a job that pays what he has made at Case.

Swickard believes workers were fortunate they had a year to plan. He said rumors have circulated for 10 years that the plant would close.

"It's not the first plant that closed, and it won't be the last," Swickard said.

"Most are taking it really good," and are continuing to perform their work as expected, he said. But he believes workers are ready for the plant to close once and for all, and are tired of the "cat and mouse" games. They are ready to move on.

Community Affairs

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Case

Business and Industry (WV) — J.I. Case

Production ends at Case IH

Ts MAR 14 1987

By Jan Chait

Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Terre Haute marked the end of an era Friday when the last loader/backhoe produced at Case IH on North 13th Street was shipped to the U.S. Naval Base in Pensacola, Fla.

Fourteen machines were shipped from the plant Friday, acting plant manager Arno Proctor said.

"We've still got two machines left on the property," he said. "We'll probably ship those Monday."

Those two machines are heavy-duty forklifts intended for the U.S. Marines.

Production of loader/backhoes is being moved to Burlington,

Iowa, and forklifts will be manufactured in Wausau, Wis.

Proctor said the assembly line was shut down Jan. 31, but a skeleton crew returned to the line in mid-February to install late-arriving transmissions into the forklifts.

"After we get them off the line, we have to run them through repair and test cycles," Proctor said. "And all the military has special tests we have to do."

Workers began moving manufacturing equipment in late February from the Terre Haute plant to other Case IH plants.

Case announced May 8 that the local plant would close in June to reduce space and costs. Case is also closing plants in Bettendorf, Iowa, and Rock Island, Ill., to reduce North American manufac-

turing space by 25 percent.

When the closing was announced, 310 hourly and 153 salaried workers were employed at the local plant, down from about 800 total workers in 1981.

On Friday, 107 hourly and 75 salaried workers remained at the plant, with approximately one-third of the hourly and one-fourth of the salaried employees to be laid off by March 31.

Case's last lay-off was March 6, when 37 workers left the plant for the last time.

Proctor said earlier that about one-third of employees remaining at the plant would be laid off each month until it closes in June.

The 700,000-square-foot plant was built in 1952 by Allis-Chalmers and was bought by Case in 1966 to produce wheel loaders.

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